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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

I1F

March 1, 2002

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

S/ES

RELEASED IN FULL

SECRET//NOFORN

DECL: 1.6X1

TO: The Deputy Secretary

FROM: INR - Carl W. Ford, Jr.

SUBJECT: Niger--Sale of Uranium to Iraq Is Unlikely (S//NF)

(S//NF) Though a foreign government service indicates Nigerien officials, including President Tandja, may have conspired to arrange a uranium sale to Iraq, neither Tandja nor key officials of his government, who desire good relations with the United States and other donors, would risk jeopardizing these ties by pursuing such a deal. Moreover, France controls the uranium industry in Niger and reportedly would take action to block the sale.

SECRET//NOFORN//X1

Classified by: Carl W. Ford, Jr., INR A/S

Reason: E.O. 12958 1.5(c) and (d)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD

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